

REMARKS

In an Office Action mailed October 6, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 15 and 16 under 35 USC 112(1) as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 6-9, 11-14 and 21-23 as being anticipated by or made obvious over U.S. Patent No. 3,847,710 to Blomqvist, alone and in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,579,340 to Booth. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's statement that claims 3 and 17-20 are allowable.

Claims 1-14, 17-20, 22 and 23:

Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 4, 9-14, 22 and 23, and amended claims 2 and 6-8 to depend from allowed claim 3. Accordingly, claims 2, 3, 6-8 and 17-20 are allowable.

Claims 15 and 16:

With respect to claims 15 and 16, which have not been rejected over any prior art reference, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's statement that "there is no indication in the specification or the drawings that the conveyor's recessed [sic] does have a bottom portion as required by the claim [15]" (Office Action at 2). To the contrary, the "web conveyor 140 includes a recessed portion 148 that is generally shaped and contoured to accommodate the relatively thicker portion 146 of the discrete part 144" (Specification at 16). As clearly shown in Figure 9, the recessed portion 148 has a "bottom surface" indicated by the dashed line defining the recessed portion. Accordingly, one of skill in the art would clearly understand that the inventors had possession of the claimed invention at the time the application was filed, and claims 15 and 16 should be passed to allowance.

Applicants have also amended claim 15 to recite that the at least one recessed portion having a bottom surface is adapted to accommodate at least one portion of the discrete part, as recited in the Specification at page 16, lines 16-18.

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Claim 21:

With respect to claim 21, which has merely been amended to incorporate the limitations from which it depended, Applicants respectfully disagree that Blomqvist discloses that the carrier body is rotatable about an axis normal to the convex surface of the recessed portion. Rather, the carrier body of Blomqvist is rotated about an axis *parallel* to the convex surface (see Figure 1 of Blomqvist). Put another way, the rotation axis of Blomqvist is not normal, i.e. perpendicular, to *any* surface of the recessed portion. Accordingly, claim 21 should also be passed to allowance.

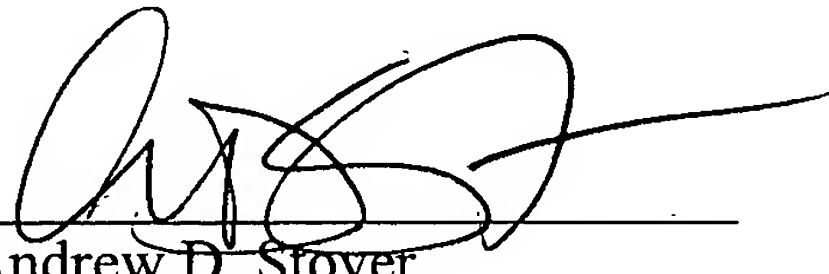
CONCLUSION:

No fees are believed to be due in connection with this amendment. If for any reason this application is not considered to be in condition for allowance and an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4713.

Respectfully Submitted,

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By:



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